

ABSTRACT

2 A method and a system for selecting and ordering broadcast programs uses
3 an electronic program guide that may be broadcast to subscribers or posted on an Internet
4 web site. The system allows national broadcasters to provide one or more channels of
5 pay-per-view or subscription programming and to establish a mechanism for billing
6 subscribers who access the programs. Subscribers may access the Internet and send a
7 program request to a web site. An authorization is then forwarded to a billing center and
8 to a local broadcaster. The billing center debits the subscriber's account, or prepares a
9 bill. The local broadcaster sends the authorization to the subscriber. The authorization
10 includes a program code and a terminal identifier that permit the subscriber's television
11 or set top terminal to decrypt and display the program.